THE WASHINGTON POST
A 18 Sunday, July 20, 1975

Nixon Saddened By Deaths

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 19 (UPI)—Former President Nixon was "very sad" when he learned that two badly injured Marines he helped pry from the wreckage of their car had died from their injuries, Nixon's son-in-law Edward Cox said.

"It really affected him, the tragedy of it really struck him," Cox said in a telephone interview Friday night discussing Nixon's attempt to help the fatally injured Marines and his reaction to their deaths.

"You know, those two Marines were going off base to have a good time," Cox quoted Nixon as saying as he gazed out his car window on the 10-mile drive back to his seaside estate from the accident scene on the Camp Pendleton Marine base.

"He obviously felt very sad. When we got home, he immediately called the commanding officer to find out how the two Marines were progressing. That evening wasn't very happy," Cox recalled.

Friday morning Nixon called Camp Pendleton and learned both Marines had died.

Cox said he, his wife, Tricia, and Nixon were returning from a round of golf when they happened upon the accident about two minutes after the head-on collision Thursday evening.

"The Secret Service driver's inclination was to keep on going. But the President ordered him to pull over. The President asked the warrant officer, 'You need any help? We've got some first aid equipment!" Nixon's car carries medical supplies because of his phlebitis condition.

The former President then ordered one of his Secret Service agents, George Hollanderski, to radio for a med-evac helicopter.

Cox said he went up to the wreckage containing the injured Marines and saw one was dead. A second Marine was helped out, he said. Nixon was on the other side of the car watching s agents tried to pull the third Marine from the wreck but the man's foot was jammed against the accelerator pedal. "Get a crowbar over here," Nixon said.

Cox said persons at the accident scene recognized Nixon but paid little attention to him.